

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Canceled)

1                   Claim 2 (Currently amended) : A screen printing method for  
2                   printing paste on a work via pattern holes formed on a mask  
3                   plate, comprising:

4                   a mask attachment step in which said work is brought into  
5                   contact with the a lower surface of said mask plate;

6                   ~~a mask pressure step in which~~

7                   a squeegeeing step in which a squeegee is moved on the mask  
8                   plate in the mask attachment state thereby to filling paste into  
9                   said pattern holes; and

10                  a plate separating step in which the work is separated from  
11                  the mask plate stepwise by a plate separating operation of  
12                  repeating plural times an acceleration and deceleration pattern  
13                  in which a moving speed at which said work is moved in the  
14                  direction where the work separates from the mask plate is  
15                  accelerated up to an upper limit speed and thereafter is  
16                  decelerated up to a lower limit speed,

17                  wherein an initial upper limit speed representing said  
18                  upper limit speed in start of said plate separating operation is  
19                  set higher than succeeding upper limit speeds representing the  
20                  upper limit speeds from the middle of the plate separating  
21                  operation on,

22                  wherein in said plate separating operation, a plurality of

23       said acceleration and deceleration patterns are set so that said  
24       succeeding upper limit speed are decelerated gradually.

1           Claim 3 (Previously presented): A screen printing method  
2       for printing paste on a work via pattern holes formed on a mask  
3       plate, comprising:

4           a mask attachment step in which said work is brought into  
5       contact with the lower surface of said mask plate;

6           a squeegeeing step in which a squeegee is moved on the mask  
7       plate in the mask attachment state thereby to filling paste into  
8       said pattern holes; and

9           a plate separating step in which the work is separated from  
10       the mask plate stepwise by a plate separating operation of  
11       repeating plural times an acceleration and deceleration pattern  
12       in which a moving speed at which said work is moved in the  
13       direction where the work separates from the mask plate is  
14       accelerated up to an upper limit speed and thereafter is  
15       decelerated up to a lower limit speed,

16           wherein an initial upper limit speed representing said  
17       upper limit speed in start of said plate separating operation is  
18       set higher than succeeding upper limit speeds representing the  
19       upper limit speeds from the middle of the plate separating  
20       operation on,

21           wherein in start of said plate separating operation, a  
22       plurality of said acceleration and deceleration patterns are set  
23       so that acceleration and deceleration is repeated at the nearly  
24       equal initial upper limit speed.

1                   Claim 4 (Currently amended): The screen printing method  
2                   according to Claim [[1]] 2, wherein in the plate separating  
3                   operation, said work is separated from the mask plate by causing  
4                   the work to descend.

1                   Claim 5 (Currently amended): A screen printing method for  
2                   printing paste on a work via pattern holes formed on a mask  
3                   plate, comprising:

4                   a mask attachment step in which said work is brought into  
5                   contact with the lower surface of said mask plate;

6                   ~~a mask pressure step in which said work is raised further~~  
7                   ~~by a predetermined margin from a normal height position of a~~  
8                   ~~lower surface of the mask plate so that said contact between the~~  
9                   ~~work and the mask plate is in a state under pressure from below;~~

10                  a squeegeeing step in which a squeegee is moved on the mask  
11                  plate in the mask attachment state thereby to filling paste into  
12                  said pattern holes; and

13                  a plate separating step in which a plate separating  
14                  operation of moving said work ~~plate~~ in the direction where the  
15                  work separates from the mask plate is performed,

16                  wherein in start of said plate separating operation, the  
17                  moving speed is accelerated up to an upper limit speed and  
18                  thereafter is decelerated up to a lower limit speed,

19                  wherein in start of said plate separating operation, a  
20                  plurality of acceleration and deceleration patterns are set so  
21                  that acceleration and deceleration is repeated at nearly equal  
22                  the upper limit speed, and

23                  wherein thereafter deceleration is performed continuously

24       until said plate separating operation is completed.

1           Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~The screen printing method~~  
2        according to ~~Claim 5, A screen printing method for printing paste~~  
3        on a work via pattern holes formed on a mask plate, comprising:  
4           a mask attachment step in which said work is brought into  
5        contact with the lower surface of said mask plate;  
6           a squeegeeing step in which a squeegee is moved on the mask  
7        plate in the mask attachment state thereby to filling paste into  
8        said pattern holes; and  
9           a plate separating step in which a plate separating  
10       operation of moving said work in the direction where the work  
11       separates from the mask plate is performed,  
12           wherein in start of said plate separating operation, the  
13       moving speed is accelerated up to an upper limit speed and  
14       thereafter is decelerated up to a lower limit speed,  
15           wherein in a process where in start of said plate  
16       separating operation, the moving speed is accelerated up to the  
17       upper limit speed and thereafter is decelerated up to the lower  
18       limit speed, acceleration and deceleration are not repeated but  
19       deceleration is performed continuously until said plate  
20       separating operation is completed.

1           Claim 7 (Original): ~~The screen printing method according to~~  
2        Claim 5, wherein in the plate separating operation, said work is  
3        separated from the mask plate by causing the work to descend.